

Appl. No. 09/745,751
Amdt. dated September 30, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 3, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

1 (Currently Amended) A method of injecting a drug into a patient through a needle having a lumen comprising the steps of:

advancing said needle into the tissue linearly along a longitudinal axis of the needle; and

simultaneously rotating the needle along its longitudinal axis to reduce deflection of the needle; and

injecting the drug.

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2 (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said needle is rotated for an angle of about 0-180 degrees.

3 (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said simultaneous rotation is a bidirectional rotation whereby the needle is rotated in a first direction and then in a second direction.

4 (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the needle is returned to its original angular orientation after each rotation.


5 (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said rotation comprises rotating the needle by an angle of 0-180 degrees.

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6 (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said needle is advanced at a rate of 2-4 mm/sec during said rotation.

7 (Currently Amended) A method of administering drug to a patient comprising the steps of:

providing a needle associated with a drug supply, said needle having an elongated shaft, a lumen and a beveled tip with an exit point communicating with said lumen, said drug being selectively ~~so that said drug is~~ forced from said drug supply through said lumen and out of said exit point;

 advancing said needle along a longitudinal axis of the needle through the patient tissue until a predetermined site is reached; and

simultaneously rotating said needle about said longitudinal axis during said advancing to prevent said needle from being deflected.

8 (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said rotating includes rotating said needle first in a first direction and then rotating said needle in a second direction opposite said first direction.

9 (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said rotating includes rotating said needle from said first orientation and then returning said needle to said first orientation.

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10 (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said needle is rotated by a predetermined angle in a first direction and is then rotated backwards by the same predetermined angel to said first predetermined location.

11 (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said needle is rotated by an angle of between 0-180 degrees.

12 (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said needle is rotated cyclically several times as said needle is advanced.

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13 (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said needle is rotated manually.
